

**State of Alaska**  
**FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Community & Economic Development**  
**Circuit Rider**  
**Component Budget Summary**

## **Component: Circuit Rider**

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### **Component Mission**

The mission of the Circuit Rider program is to increase the reliability and efficiency of rural electric systems and to respond quickly and effectively to electrical emergencies.

### **Component Services Provided**

The Circuit Rider program offers preventive maintenance services, on-site operator training, and emergency response to rural electric utilities, specifically the smaller utilities that have difficulty acquiring and maintaining the necessary technical skills. The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) contracts with private sector firms to provide these services, supplementing with AEA field staff when necessary.

The contract personnel providing these services include qualified plant operators, electricians and linemen. They visit the participating communities on a semi-annual or yearly basis, depending on the conditions of the electrical systems, local operator skills and utility management. Inspection, testing, and preventive maintenance is performed on diesel engines, generators, control panels, metering systems and other related components. The contractors are assisted by the local plant operators, who acquire training and skills in the process.

As described in the department's capital budget request for electrical emergency funds, circuit rider contractors are also dispatched to participating communities when power failures occur that the local utility is unable to resolve.

### **Component Goals and Strategies**

Ensure that small diesel power plants, especially those constructed or financed by the State, are properly maintained for safe and reliable service over their expected lives.

Conduct preventive maintenance and repair on a semi-annual basis for rural electric utilities that lack the necessary in-house capability.

Conduct on-site operator training needed for local labor to take on regular preventive maintenance tasks.

Reduce the number of electrical emergencies in rural Alaska.

### **Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004**

During FY03, AEA has limited funds for this program, providing only for initial visits and minor repairs. The department has a capital budget request for additional preventative maintenance repairs, which will prevent more costly emergency repairs in the future.

### **Major Component Accomplishments in 2002**

Provided circuit rider maintenance services to 82 communities.

Responded to electrical emergencies in 8 communities. All of the emergencies were due to diesel engine or electrical failures of the generator.

There were 25 follow-up visits to communities to perform additional training and maintenance repairs noted from the initial trips to the communities.

**Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 42.45 Rural and Statewide Energy Programs

**Circuit Rider**  
**Component Financial Summary**

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	8.9	0.0	0.0
73000 Contractual	225.3	200.7	200.7
74000 Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>234.2</b>	<b>200.7</b>	<b>200.7</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1002 Federal Receipts	34.2	100.0	100.0
1004 General Fund Receipts	200.0	100.7	100.7
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>234.2</b>	<b>200.7</b>	<b>200.7</b>

**Circuit Rider**

**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004**

None.

**Summary of Component Budget Changes**

**From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor**

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2003 Authorized</b>	100.7	100.0	0.0	200.7
<b>FY2004 Governor</b>	100.7	100.0	0.0	200.7